(a) what is the number of persons who have been kidnapped in Jammu and Kashmir during the last six months;

(b) what was the number of foreign nationals amongst them;

(c) what is the number of persons who were released, injured and killed separately and together with the number of persons who are still in the clutches of the kidnappers; and

(d) what efforts are being made to the release of the kidnapped persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI):

(a) and (b) 203 persons were abducted by militants in J&K during the six month period 1.1.95 to 30.6.95. No one was a foreign national among them. 62 persons were abducted during the period from 1.7.95 to 15.7.95 of which 6 were foreign nationals.

(c) 103 persons were killed, 9 were rescued by security forces and the remaining were released by the abductors. Among the 6 foreign nationals abducted, one escaped from the militants and the remaining five are still captive.

(d) Contingents of Security Forces have been deployed to trace the kidnapped foreigners taking all necessary precautions to ensure that the safety of the hostages is not jeopardised.

Sale of HI-Tech weapons by India

452. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to export Main Battle Tank namely 'Arjun' Armed Light Helicopter and Light Combat Aircraft to some countries;

(b) whether display of such Hi-Tech weapons has already been done at Idex'95 organised at Abu Dhabi (UAE);

(c) whether Government propose to give live demonstration of these Hi-Tech weapons at Idex'97 Exhibition;

(d) whether some trade enquiries have also been received from some foreign countries;

(e) whether sale and live demonstration of country's Hi-Tech defence weapons will be in the interests of country; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Such issues can arise only after serial production is established.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Such decisions will be taken at a proximate time.

(d) There has been widespread expression of interest but no specific trade enquiries.

(e) and (f) Export or demonstration of defence equipment is always subordinated to the country's security concerns.

Committee for financial assistance to World War-II veterans

453. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee has been constituted to consider financial assistance to those veterans of World War-II whose tenure in the armed forces was not long enough to qualify for pensions; and

(b) if so, the composition of the said Committee and by when the Committee is expected to submit the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) A Committee has been constituted to consider the demand for grant of pension to World War II Veterans and to suggest appropriate solution thereto. The Composition of the Committee is as under:— (i) Additional Secretary(R), Ministry of Defence — Chairman

(ii) Joint Secretary (ESW), MOD — Member